

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8555

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1815

FROM SIMONS FOR ANDREWS, EUR/EE THREE COPIES ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN RO
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. GLIGA VISIT. WE ARE HOLDING UP PROPOSAL ON LOCAL EMPLOYEES (AS WELL AS FURTHER WORK ON JOINT DECLARATION DRAFT) PENDING WORD FROM YOU ON HOW DISCUSSION OF THESE TWO TOPICS WENT. THE SONNER IT ARRIVES, THE MORE WE WILL APPRECIATE IT.

2. AMBASSADOR'S CONSULAR CALL. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON, AMBASSADOR IS PLANNING TO CALL ON CONSULAR DIRECTORATE CHIEF GHEORGHE BADESCU TO RUN OVER THE MANY ISSUES BEFORE US IN THIS FIELD, AND IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF HE COULD RESPOND TO DEPFONMIN PACOSTE'S JANUARY 6 SUGGESTION THAT WE HOLD EXPERT-LEVEL CONSULAR TALKS EITHER HERE OR IN WASHINGTON. ANY IMPRESSIONS OR THOUGHTS ON MATTERS INVOLVED--DUAL NATIONALS, NON-VISA PROPOSAL AND RELATED QUESTION OF EXTENDING VALIDITY OF EXIT PERMITS FROM GOR SIDE, REP LIST--AS WELL AS IDEA OF MEETING ITSELF WOULD ALSO BE APPRECIATED, THEREFORE. WE AGREE (WITH YOU IN STATE 53460) THAT IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL TO HAVE SOMETHING GOING BEFORE CEAUSESCU VISIT.

3. ITALIAN TRANSIT VISAS (ALSO STATE 53460). IN ANSWER TO YOUR QUERY ABOUT TRANSIT VISA FOR DANA MARIA SUFANA, SHE APPLIED
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FOR ITALIAN VISA ON FEBRUARY 8 AND RECEIVED IT FEBRUARY 27, MUCH MORE QUICKLY THAN IS USUAL (30 WORKING DAYS). SUFANA'S ROMANIAN EXIT VISA EXPIRED MARCH 17, AND SHE TOLD CONOFF THAT SHE COULD NOT HAVE RENEWED VISA BECAUSE SHE LACKED A MOTIVE FOR RENEWAL WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO AUTHORITIES. SHE HAD NO PROBLEMS APPLYING FOR ITALIAN VISA, AND LAUGHED WHEN ASKED IF SOMEONE HAD SAID SOMETHING TO HER ABOUT ITALY LACKING

A GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, SHE HAD TOLD HUSBAND ITALIAN VISA MIGHT NOT BE APPROVED BEFORE EXIT VISA RAN OUT, AND FEELS SHW EXPEDITED VISA ISSUANCE THROUGH INTERCESSION OF A ROMANIAN PAINTER WHO KNOWS ITALIAN AMBASSADOR. SHE DID NOT TURN TO EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE IN EXPEDITING ITALIAN VISAS OR SECURING EXIT VISA EXTENSION. SUFANA EVINced NO RECOGNITION AT MENTION OF DIMITRIE APOSTOLIU. SHE LEFT FOR ROME MARCH 17. STORY OF LACK OF SATISFACTORY RATIONALE FOR EXIT VISA RENEWAL IS NOT BORNE OUT BY ANY PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WE'VE HAD. WE'RE DOING OPEN CHANNEL CABLES ON EXIT VISA EXTENSION, AND WILL REPORT ANY REAL DIFFICULTIES WITH ITALIAN VISAS BY OPEN CHANNEL.

4. PENSIONS/SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS. MFA CONSULAR DIRECTORATE OFFICIAL RECENTLY SUGGESTED TO CONOFFS NEED FOR RECIPROCAL PAYMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT AND ALIMONY. WE AGREE THERE WOULD BE A NET ROMANIAN DISADVANTAGE IN AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD AGREEMENT ON PENSIONS, ALTHOUGH ROMANIAN PENSIONS AT OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE ARE VERY SMALL BY U.S. STANDARDS, SINCE ROMANIANS IN U.S. ELIGIBLE FOR PENSIONS OUTNUMBER SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENTS HERE. CONSULAR DIRECTORATE MAN'S PITCH MAY NOT HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED, BUT IT SOUNDS ENCOURAGING AND WE WILL FOLLOW UP. ACROSS-THE-BOARD AGREEMENT ON PENSIONS MIGHT NOT GET ANYWHERE, BUT WE COULD ALSO PURSUE THIS TOPIC IN GENERAL CONSULAR TALKS.

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